REMARKS

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2005. Claims 1-15, 45 and 46 are presented for examination. Non-elected claims 16-44 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, having been withdrawn from consideration by a restriction requirement. Claims 1-15 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 45 and 46 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, and 13 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 3-5, 6, 9, 11-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by J.P. Pub. No. 09-244828 (*Akihiko*). Claims 2, 7, 10, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Akihiko* in view of JP Pub. No. 07-073128 (*Takeshi*).

Regarding the Section 101 rejection, Claim 12 has been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that it conforms fully to the requirements of Section 101, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Specifically, Claim 12 has been amended to recite "a computer-readable medium." It is believed that the rejection under Section 101 has been obviated and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to controlling a printer to print a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job when appropriate permission is obtained, for example, when a user is authenticated. If such permission is not obtained the print job is

not printed and an indication that such permission was not obtained is transmitted to a job accounting application.

Claim 1 is directed to a print control apparatus for performing user authentication processing in print processing including a job combination unit, a request unit, and a transmission control unit. The job combination unit combines a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job. The request unit issues a request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job. The transmission control unit includes a printer driver for controlling a transmission process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is transmitted to a printer. If permission is not obtained (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application.

By virtue of the features of the apparatus of Claim 1, when a user is authenticated, for example, a single combined print job is transmitted to a printer. If that is not the case the print job is not transmitted to the printer and an indication that the user was not authenticated is transmitted to a job accounting application.

Akihiko, as understood by Applicants, relates to a security system for a printer wherein a secret document is transmitted from a host computer to the printer and is stored in a HDD of the printer. The printer informs the host computer of a job number assigned to the stored document via a print server, and the secret document is printed when a user inputs a pre-registered password and the job number assigned to the secret document.

In the *Akihiko* system, a secret document is transmitted from a host to a printer when the user requests to print a secret document. However, in the apparatus of Claim 1, a print job is not transmitted to the printer when permission is denied by an authentication server.

Further, in the *Akihiko* system, in contradistinction to the apparatus of Claim 1, no indication that permission was denied by the authentication server is transmitted.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is seen to be clearly allowable over *Akihiko*.

Independent claims 6, 9, 12 and 13 are directed to a method, storage medium, program, and system, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus recited in Claim 1, and are also believed to be patentable over *Akihiko* for at least the same reasons.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are, therefore, believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 was filed May 3, 2002 and a partially initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 was attached by the Examiner to the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to return

an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449, indicating that U.S. Patent 6,064,838 (*Maruta et al.*) was considered.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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